(c) whether Government are taking appropriate steps to increase the profits of public sector banks which have lesser profits in comparison to that of private sector banks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The operating profit of public sector banks and private sector banks was Rs. 29715.24 crores and Rs. 7238.69 crores respectively as on 31st March 2003. The percentage of gross profit to total assets of public sector banks increased from 1.88% in 2001-02 to 2.31% in 2002-03, over the same period it increased from 1.74 to 2.43% for the private sector banks.

(c) and (d) Steps taken or proposed to improve the functioning and profitability of the Nationalised Banks include enactment of laws to improve recovery of Non-Performing Assets; deregulation of interest rates; introduction of prudential norms; reduction in Statutotry Liquidity Ratio and Cash Reserve Ratio; and encouragement to Information Technology, Organizational Restructuring, improvement in human resource management and customer service, diversification in their lines of business, etc.

Budgetary support for social sector

†722. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many States have requested to consider gross budgetary support in the Central Budget for the success of several social sector schemes in their States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.